international flights from Bagdogra even without declaring the airport as international. Similarly, tourist charter flights can also operate to airports having customs, Immigration facilities.

(c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has plan to expand apron to accommodate four A-320 type of aircraft at a time.

**Knowledge of English for International Pilots**

3249. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA :
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made it complusory that pilots of foreign airlines operating at Indian International Airports must know English to avoid misunderstanding in communications;

(b) if so, since when; and

(c) if not, in what manner Government propose to avoid the risk of accidents in mid-air and protocol violation because of wrong communication?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) The Government had taken up the matter regarding proficiency in English Language for radiotelephony communication in 32nd Assembly Session of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) held in Montreal in October,. 1998. During the Assembly Session, a resolution was passed to strengthen the relevant provisions of Annex 1 (Personal Licensing) and Annex 10 (Aeronautical Telecommunication) to obligate contracting States to take steps to ensure that Air Traffic Control personnel and flight crew are proficient in conducting and comprehending radiotelephony communications in the English language. In addition, based on the recommendations of the Court of Inquiry which investigated the mid-air collision on 12.11.1996 near Delhi, (i) carriage of Airborne Collision Avoidance System (ACAS) has been made mandatory in Indian air space on all aircraft (including foreign airlines) having more than 30 seats or payload capacity of more than 3 tonnes and (ii) high density Air Traffic Service (ATS) routes have been realigned into unidirectional arrival/departure corridors.